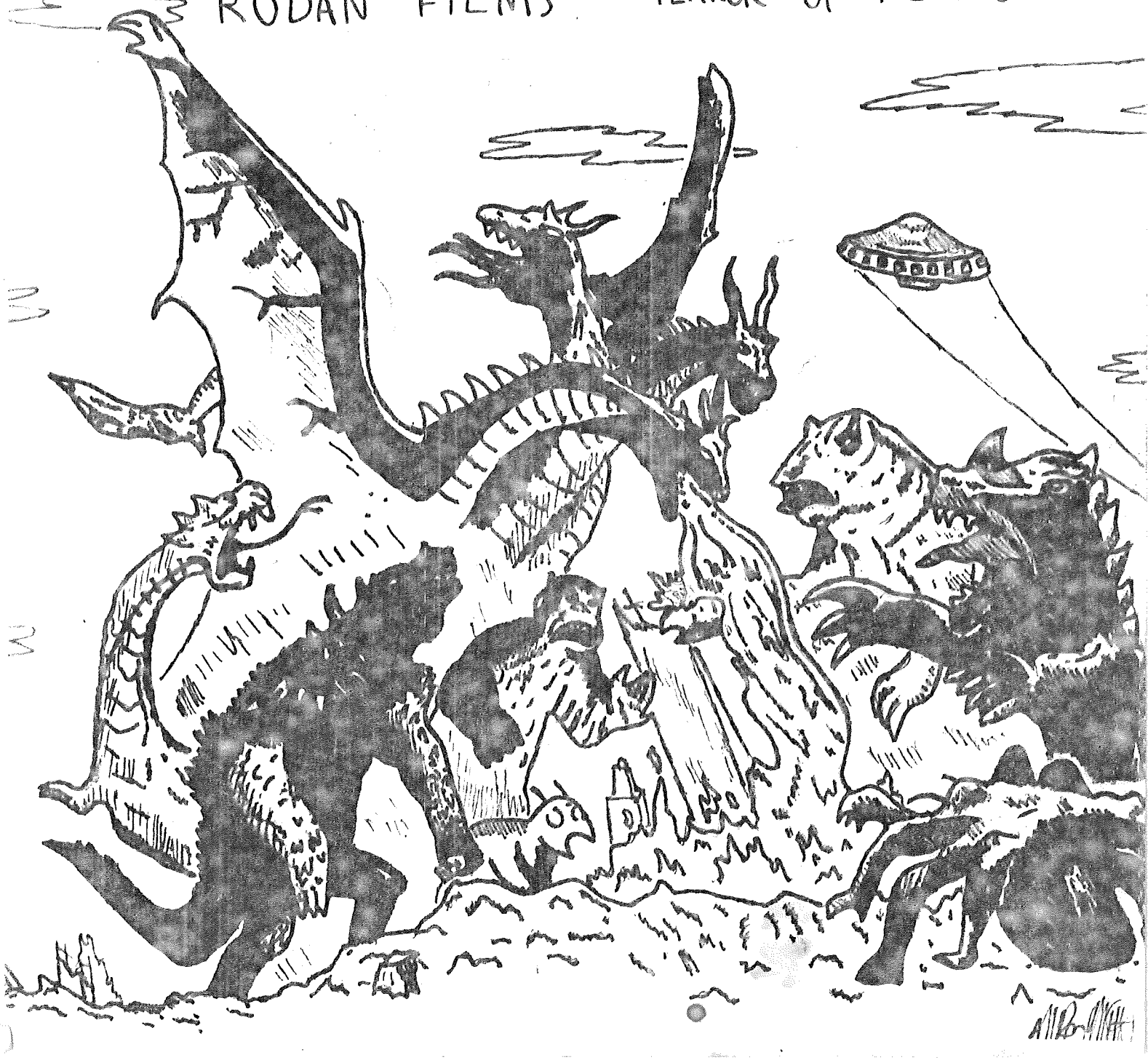
GIANTS FROM JAPAN

NO.1
1979

THIS ISSUE:

RODAN FILMS — TERROR OF MECHAGODZILLA



GIANTS FROM JAPAN

#1

CREDITS

Art- Mike Martin, pgs.3, 15. Kevin Grays, pgs. 2, 9, inside back cover. Bill Gudmundson, pgs. 11, back cover.
Articles- All articles were by Mike Martin, except for the Rodan Blueprints, which were by Kevin Grays.
GIANTS FROM JAPAN #1 June, 1979 issue. Mike Martin, Editor. 3597 Adaline Drive Stow, Ohio 44224. Cover Price- $1.25.
Front Cover- I (Mike Martin) did this issue's cover, showing a scene from DESTROY ALL MONSTERS (Toho, 1968).
Inside Back Cover- Kevin Grays did this great masterpiece depicting the titanic battle between Godzilla and Kong in KING KONG VS. GODZILLA (Toho, 1963).
Back Cover- Spectacular is the word for Bill Gudmundson's fantastic illistration of MOTHRA (Toho, 1962).
This Issue Dedicated To- Kevin Grays and Bill Gudmundon, who's fantastic articles and artwork helped make this issue possible. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank you, all those who mailed away for this issue, for waiting so patiently.

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The first 15 issues of GIANTS FROM JAPAN are numbered. This is number 1

GIANTS FROM JAPAN

EDITORIAL

Greetings and welcome to the long-awaited first issue of GIANTS FROM JAPAN. When I say long-awaited, I mean that many of you have been waiting a looong time for this zine, and I appreciate your patiance and courtesy. Many, MANY problems kept arising every time I was ready to put it out. But, at any rate, here it is and I hope you enjoy it. Needless to say, this will NOT happen again...if you order GFJ #2, it will NOT take more than 6 weeks for it to reach you, I promise.

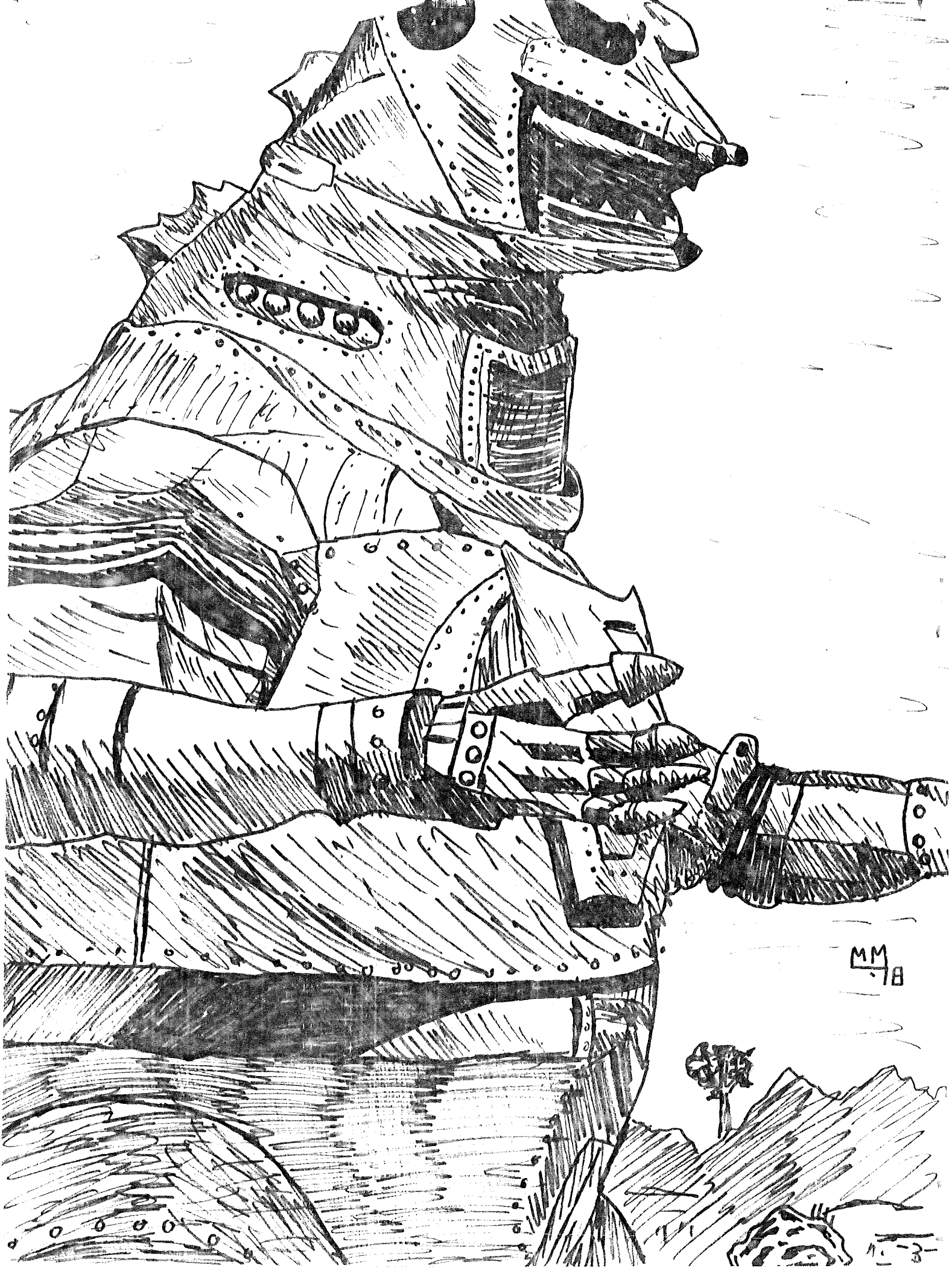
You may be wondering why I changed this zine's title from MONSTERS FROM JAPAN to GIANTS FROM JAPAN. You see, Barry Kaufman puts out a zine called MONSTERS OF JAPAN, and I didn't want the two zines to get confused.

Hope you like the TERROR OF MECHAGODZILLA filmbook, part 1. I admit that in the first part it doesn't get to much action, but things really explode in part 2 as Godzilla, MechaGodzilla and Titanosaurus battle one another in a devestating fight that takes them all over Japan. All in next issue (for other previews, see page 19.) Incidently, the film was originally called TERROR OF GODZILLA when it first appeared in the U.S. The title was changed when it was sold to television.

That's all for now. Next issue will be 36 pages for $1.25, and it won't take as long to reach you as this issue did. It'll feature art by myself, Kevin Grays and Bill Gudmundson, and fantastic (and rare) photos. See you next issue, Japanese monster fans!

Sayonara,

Mike Martin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TERROR of MECHAGODZILLA

Filmbook
by Mike Martin.

PROLOUGE

Godzilla- king of the monsters. Nobody knows the origin of this indistructable monster. But many people believe Godzilla was some kind of an ancient god. Others thought Godzilla was a prehistoric monster awakened from a million years sleep by atomic explosions. Thinking this awesome creature a threat to civilization, attempts were made to destroy Godzilla with modern war machines. To Godzilla, these implaments of destruction and their tremendous firepower were merely toys. He batted them away, and he simply destroyed them.

Innored and angered by this attempt, Godzilla set out to destroy the cities. The sound of his screeching roar and earth-shaking footsteps sent thousands running from their homes, fleeing for their lives. He crushed all in his path, and set the countryside aflame with his fiery breath. All of man's military might was no match for Godzilla. Bullets...tanks...rockets...they had no effect on this giant. His fierce attack left the cities in ruins.

There seemed to be no way of stopping this 600 ton monster, as whole city blocks became a raging inferno. Then, from the black hole of outer space, invaders from other planets and galaxies decided this was the oppurtunity to take over the earth. But Godzilla, like an animal protecting his home territory, decided to unite with the Earth people in attempting to fight off the invaders. Godzilla, the terrifying monster, now becomes Godzilla, the friend and ally.

To cope with Godzilla, the invaders used monsters of their own. Many fierce battles took place with these frightening monsters. Godzilla was put to the full test of his strength. But in the end, Godzilla and the Earth people were victorious.

Other sinister minds from outer space decided that the only way to take over the earth and destroy Godzilla would be with another Godzilla-like creature. The huge robot monster, impervious to anything, MechaGodzilla!!

In their first encounter, a furious battle took place, in which Godzilla almost met his match. Godzilla called upon here-to-for-unknown powers to defeat his mechanicle counterpart. And then, after twisting the MechaGodzilla's head off, he hurled it into the sea.

Chapter One- Enter; Titanosaurus!

A sub is sent to search for MechaGodzilla's head. The submarine submerges, traveling just above the ocean floor. A search light is switched on from within the sub.

On the dock sits a young girl, Katsura. Katsura is the daughter of Dr. Mafune, a once-famous marine scientist. As she watches the ocean, where the sub had just submerged, her eyes take on a strange glow.

Back aboard the sub, not a trace of the MechaGodzilla can be found. "Are you sure we have the correct location", one of the men asks. "I'm quite sure", the captain replies. "We're in the right area."
"And still no sign of MechaGodzilla!"
There is movement in the water ahead of the sub. Suddenly a huge torrent of water knocks the sub around, catching it in a whirlpool-like vortex. A roar is heard inside the craft.
The sub surfaces. A huge snake-like creature rises up with it!! This is the Titanosaurus!!!
Titanosaurus leaps out of the water and lands on top of the sub, pushing it under. Titanosaurus grabs onto the sub and pulls it down into the ocean depths.

Chapter Two- The Meeting

Meanwhile, at the International Police Organization building, a meeting is taking place to find out what happened to the sub.
"It's true that the submarine was still in the experimental stage," one of the men states.
"It'd been specially designed by us at the Ocean Exploitation Institute. I can't believe it...that this accident was caused by some mistake on our part!"
"What did the wreck tell you?" a scientist asks.
"Not much," replies the first man. "The sub had been hit with enormous impact. It'd been ripped completly apart."
"Yes..." muses the first scientist. "It wasn't an explosion?"
"Check the report!"
After looking over the papers, the scientist states, "It's possible, chief."
"Hmmmmm...you'll find this interesting," the chief replies, handing the scientist a batch of photographs of a space ship. "Take a look at these. We can't be sure about it, but the man who took these photographs swears he saw something strange rising out of the sea, just above where the submarine sank. It rose up several times. Now, it's not much to go by, but I think it means that we must be very careful about what we do in the future."
Just then, a man enters the room, stating, "My name is Ichinose from the O.E.I."
One of the men seated at the desk reconises the newcomer. "Hey...Ichinose!
"Marakoshi!" Ichinose exclaims. "How are you?"
"Fine!"
"You two know each other?" the chief asks.
"Yes, uh, we were at college," Marakoshi replies.
"Well, good. Take a seat. It's nice to meet you."
"Thank you," Ichinose replies, pulling up a chair.
The meeting continues as the chief says, "I'd like you to listen to this carefully. It's a recording made from the sub just before it sank."
The tape recorder is switched on. A frightened voice comes on, saying, "Come in! Headquarters! Come in! Headquarters, can you hear me? Headquarters! It looks like a giant fish! No...no...not a fish...a dinosaur! A giant dinosaur! Headquarters! It's a dinosaur! Come in!"
"Dinosaur..!" Ichinose whispers, puzzled. "Play it again."
Again the terrified voice comes on, and the chief turns the recorder off.
"There's no doubt he's saying 'dinosaur'," the chief states. "What's it mean to you as a marine biologist? What do you think?"
"I can't believe it," Ichinose replies in a puzzled voice. What if a huge dinosaur really did sink the sub? What new terrible danger might be

in store for Japan now?

Chapter Three- The Alien Plot

Meanwhile, in a hotel room downtown, sits a sinister looking man wearing sunglasses. Another man, with a beard, enters the room.

"Captain," the first man states. "I've been waiting for you. Tell me, did you have a good trip?"

"I'm exhausted. The earthling plane flights are terrible. One hour is worse than a thousand in space travel. But I suppose that it is neccessary for the project."

"You're correct. Be patient. We must choose the right time to exert our power...on Tokyo."

The man walks to the window, looking out on the polluted city, as his bearded captain stands behind him.

"Yes, Captain," he continues. "Tokyo will do. As an earthling city, it's typified by it's pollution and confusion. In spite of their attempts to control it, the earthlings don't know what to do. They are so ignorant."

"And after it is destroyed," the captain continues, "we can rebuild Tokyo to suit our convéniance. How is progress?"

"Everything is under control and on schedule. The last of our planets is fading into the black hole. We must act soon. Planet Earth is vital to us. We must succeed. Captain, I think that I've found an earthling that can help us."

"An earthling?"

"Shizo Mafune. He is a doctor of science. And as an earthling, his knowledge is exceptionally advanced."

"But can we trust him?"

"First of all, we saved his daughter's life for him. And what's more important, he himself hates earthlings...he wishes to destroy them!"

"But why should he do that?" asks the alien captain.

"20 years ago, he was a top scientist...even more brilliant than all the rest! He advanced too far for them. And then, when they didn't understand him, they threw him out!"

The alien captain nodded, already thinking of a way to work Dr.Mafune into his plan to conquer the earth.

END OF PART 1

See next issue for the dynamite conclusion

of our TERROR OF MECHAGODZILLA filmbook!

Note from the Editor-

Anyone wishing to work on the GFJ staff doing artwork, articles or supplying infromation, contact me (Mike Martin) at: 3587 Adaline Drive Stow, Ohio 44224.

THE RODAN FILMS

Rodan hatches from his egg in a mine shaft. RODAN (1957).

Rodan, the gigantic winged reptile, stands 164 feet tall and has a wingspan of 394 feet (according to Kevin Grays' Rodan Blueprints, which appear after this article). Called Radan in Japan, the huge bird can fly at supersonic speed, and his destructive winds topple buildings and other objects as he flies over them. Rodan is probably Godzilla's most famous ally, appearing in 4 Godzilla films as well as his screen debute in RODAN (1957). In this, the first Rodan film, 2 mine workers named Shiguru (Kenji Sawara) and Goro are digging in the Kitamatsu Mines with their fellow workers. Goro disappears with another miner, and Shiguru goes down to look for him. He finds the body, but accidently stumbles upon a group of prehistoric worm-like insects. In a valiant attempt to save his fellow workers, Shiguru mans a coal train and rams it into the insects. The impact causes a cave-in, and Shiguru is hopelessly trapped.

Days later, Shiguru is found on a mountainside, void of memory. When he sees a pet bird's egg hatch, though, his memory returns. He recalls how, in the shaft, a giant egg had broke open, and Rodan had emerged. Rodan gobbled the insects down. That is when he had lost consiousness.

Officials visit the mine and find not 1, but 2 Rodans, which immediatly left the shaft. The monstrous birds destroy a squadron of planes and then move on to Japan. After devestating the city, The Rodans return

to their mountaintop home.

The Japanese army bombard the mountain with missiles, causing a volcanic eruption. One of the Rodans is trapped. Refusing to leave his mate to die, the other Rodan joins her in death.

Apparently, one of the Rodans survived. He teamed up with Godzilla and Mothra in GHIDRAH, THE THREE-HEADED MONSTER (1965). In this, a new planet is discovered behind Jupiter, and 2 astronauts go to investigate. On the new world, called Planet X (what an original name!), the astronauts meet a race of people who live underground. The surface is being ravaged by Ghidrah, who fled Earth after his defeat in the previous film by Godzilla, Rodan and Mothra. The Xians want to borrow Godzilla and Rodan to rid them of the demon. In exchange for this, they will give us a miracle drug formula that will cure all illness.

Godzilla and Rodan are taken to Planet X, where they battle Ghidrah. Ghidrah is defeated as the 2 astronauts go back to Earth with the tape containing the miracle drug formula.

The tape is blank. Soon, Godzilla, Rodan, and Ghidrah are attacking Japan. A double-cross! Planet X only wants our world's water! Anyway, Godzilla and Rodan are freed from Planet X's control, and they battle Ghidrah again. The 3 monsters topple off the side of a cliff. Only 1 comes up...Ghidrah. Ghidrah flies off into space.

DESTROY ALL MONSTERS (1968) was Rodan's next film. Rodan, co-starring with such greats as Godzilla, Angilas, Mothra, Baragon and Spiga (to name a few), attacked Moscow. Once again, this film is so well known, I won't go into it.

And last, and most likely least, is GODZILLA VS. MEGALON (1976). Rodan appeared for only a few seconds at the film's beginning, which showed him on Monster Island during an earthquake. Not much to look at, really. He just stood there, looking stupid, with Angilas, who fell into a steaming crevice.

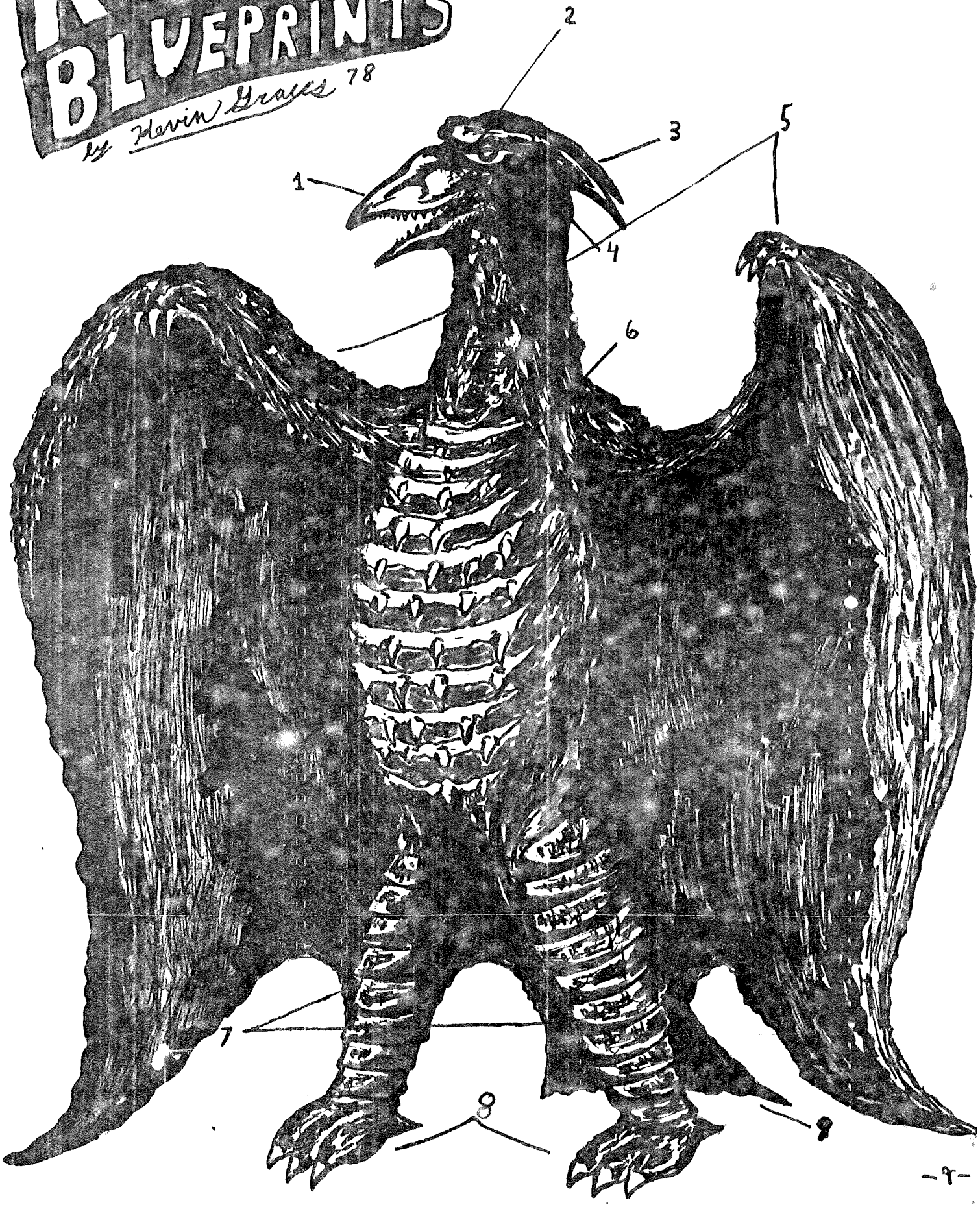
And so the saga of Rodan ends. Will he return? Who knows? Only time will tell.

Terrifying close-up of Rodan.

(This article is but the first in a series of monster filmographies. Next issue will feature the Mothra films.)

RODAN BLUEPRINTS

by Kevin Graves 78



MONSTER: Rodan

HEIGHT: 164 feet (50 meters)

WEIGHT: 15,000 metric tons
(30,000,000 pounds)

Rodan is a quite remarkable creature, capable of many interesting feats. Rodan was reresurected when his egg, placed in a state of suspended animation for millions of years, hatched within a volcano. Rodan found himself in a new era which he had to adapt to or perish.

1. BEAK: Rodan's beak serves as both a weapon and a mouth for food. It is lined with sharp, tiny teeth. Inside is a long, thin tounge, and nostrils rest near the beak's tip. Rodam can fire a very strong gust of wind from inside.

2. EYES: Rodan's eyes are placed just behind and above the beak, with steep folds of skin above. His vision is excellant and very sufficient.

3. HORNS: Atop Rodan's head rest 2 very strong and sturdy horns, excellant in smashing objects or enemies.

4. WINGS: Rodan's wings are extremely powerful and large. On them, Rodan displays three-fingered claws, apparently of little use. When fully extended, Rodan has a wingspan of 394 feet. When in the air, they can either be flapped or outstreched for gliding. When flapped at a rapid rate, Rodan can create massive winds with the terrible destructive force of a hurricane.

6. CHEST/ABDOMEN SECTION:. these areas basically appear as one, lined on the outside with crossing strips of skin. Inside resides the circulatory and digestive systems as well as air sacs. These are common in all flying creatures. They fill up with the air Rodan takes in and create a type of current allowing flight without extensive flapping.

7. LEGS: Rodan's legs are rather thin and segmented. The wings connect to them and they can miraculously support Rodan well.

8. FEET: These rather small, three-toed structures also support Rodan well. They have a thin "hook" on their rear which does not come out on footprints.

9. TAIL: The tail of Rodan is much like the tail feathers of a bird. It acts as a rudder when Rodan is flying.

ADDITIONAL INFROMATION

COLORATION: Rodan's overall body color is a carmel-like brown. The beak, horns, and the strips of crossing skin on the underside are of a much lighter, almost golden shade. The eye pupils are black.

ABILITIES: Rodan can fly at the speed of Mach 1.5 which allows him to cross the sound barrier and create sonic booms. He can also whip up great destructive winds with his wings or release massive air from his mouth. The majority of human weaponary and technology has no effect on the great beast. Rodan is very swift and agile, especially in the air. His ability to sense food is high, and he shows an excellant quality in adaption. He has gone underwater for great periods of time and even survived in outer space. Rodan's strength is truly immeasurable. He is a very durable monster, and capable of surviving incredible and rarely escapable attacks of destructive potential.

CHARACTERISTICS: Once an enemy of humanity, Rodan now prefers to protect Earth from villianous monsters who wish to destroy it, instead of destroying and killing all in his path as he once did. Rodan is basically a creature of peace who resides away from humans and among other creatures. Though he would appear to be a bird, Rodan is not, thus falling into the classification of flying reptile because he has no feathers as all true birds do.

HABITAT: Rodan does not care much for intense heat or bitter cold. A special preference of cool tropical temperatures and mountainous areas is quite evident.

INSTINCT: The quality of Rodan's instincts would appear to be pretty good for a creature such as he. Rodan is extremly well in taking care of himself and is far from a dull, unintelligent beast. Rodan has emotions and an image of his own.

HEALTH: Rodan's health is obviously in excellent condition. Wounds and battle scars heal at an incredible rate and diseases are very rare and appear to be alien to Rodan's system.

DIET: Rodan has been known to consume dolphins and tuna as sources of nourishment, but it is not definatly known if Rodan is a strict canivor. Vegitation may also be a part of the creature's diet.

RODAN AND COMPANY... THE ALLIES of GODZILLA

Mothra, one of Godzilla's more colorful allies.

Angilas, who joined Godzilla's ranks in the 1968 film, DESTROY ALL MONSTERS. * * *

Angilas, Rodan, Mothra, Minya, Jet Jaguar and King Seesaw- what do they all have in common? First of all, they're all giant Japanese monsters. Second, they all have had the outstanding honor of co-starring in a Godzilla film, as one of his allies. The "teaming up" of Toho creatures didn't begin until 1965, believe it or not, but today there are hardly any Godzilla films without a guest-appearance from another monster.

The tradition began in 1965 with GHIDRAH, THE THREE-HEADED MONSTER. Up until this film, Godzilla only FOUGHT other creatures, not exactly TEAMING UP with them. But this all changed with the appearance of Ghidrah. Japan's Big 3 came to fight Ghidrah- Godzilla from the sea, Mothra from her island home, and Rodan from within a mountaintop. At first, the monsters merely battle each other, but later they team up against Ghidrah, their common enemy. Ghidrah is vanquished by the Japanese behemoths.

The teaming up of monsters proved to be profitable for Toho, so the same year MONSTER ZERO was released. Rodan teamed up with Godzilla again, but Mothra was left out, probably because he was rather out of place in the battles with Ghidrah. But the next year (1966), the giant insect was right at home in GODZILLA VS. THE SEA MONSTER. This film concerned an island under the control of dictators intent on on ruling the world. A giant lobster called Ebirah gaurded the island, munching on passing ships every now and then. While Godzilla battled the crab, Mothra resqued a group of shipwreck survivors. The dictators are finished by an atomic explosion.

By this time, audiences were getting bored with team-ups with Rodan and Mothra- they wanted something different. So Toho gave it to them with SON OF GODZILLA in 1967. Minya was the "cute" son mentioned in the title.

The film wasn't too bad, as long as it was kept in it's place. I mean, who could be even slightly frightened or astonished by little Minya, with his child-like antics? Minya was certainly not up-to-par with Toho's regular co-stars.

But Toho made a spectacular comeback the following year, 1968, with the classic DESTROY ALL MONSTERS. Along with Mothra, Rodan, and Minya, Godzilla also teamed up with Gorosaurus (KING KONG ESCAPES), Manda, (ATRAGON), Varan (VARAN THE UNBELIEVABLE), Baragon (FRANKENSTIEN CONQUERS THE WORLD), Angilas (GIGANTIS THE FIRE MONSTER), and Spiga (SON OF GODZILLA). All 10 of these giant beasts teamed up against Ghidrah. Against such an awesome army of monsters, Ghidrah didn't stand a chance.

The next Godzilla film, GODZILLA VS. THE SMOG MONSTER (1971), was the first Godzilla film in 6 years without an ally. Then, it took 4 more years for GODZILLA VS. MEGALON to reach the states. Godzilla's

Jet Jaguar, Godzilla's robotic ally, stands ready to battle Megalon and Gigan in GODZILLA VS. MEGALON (1976).

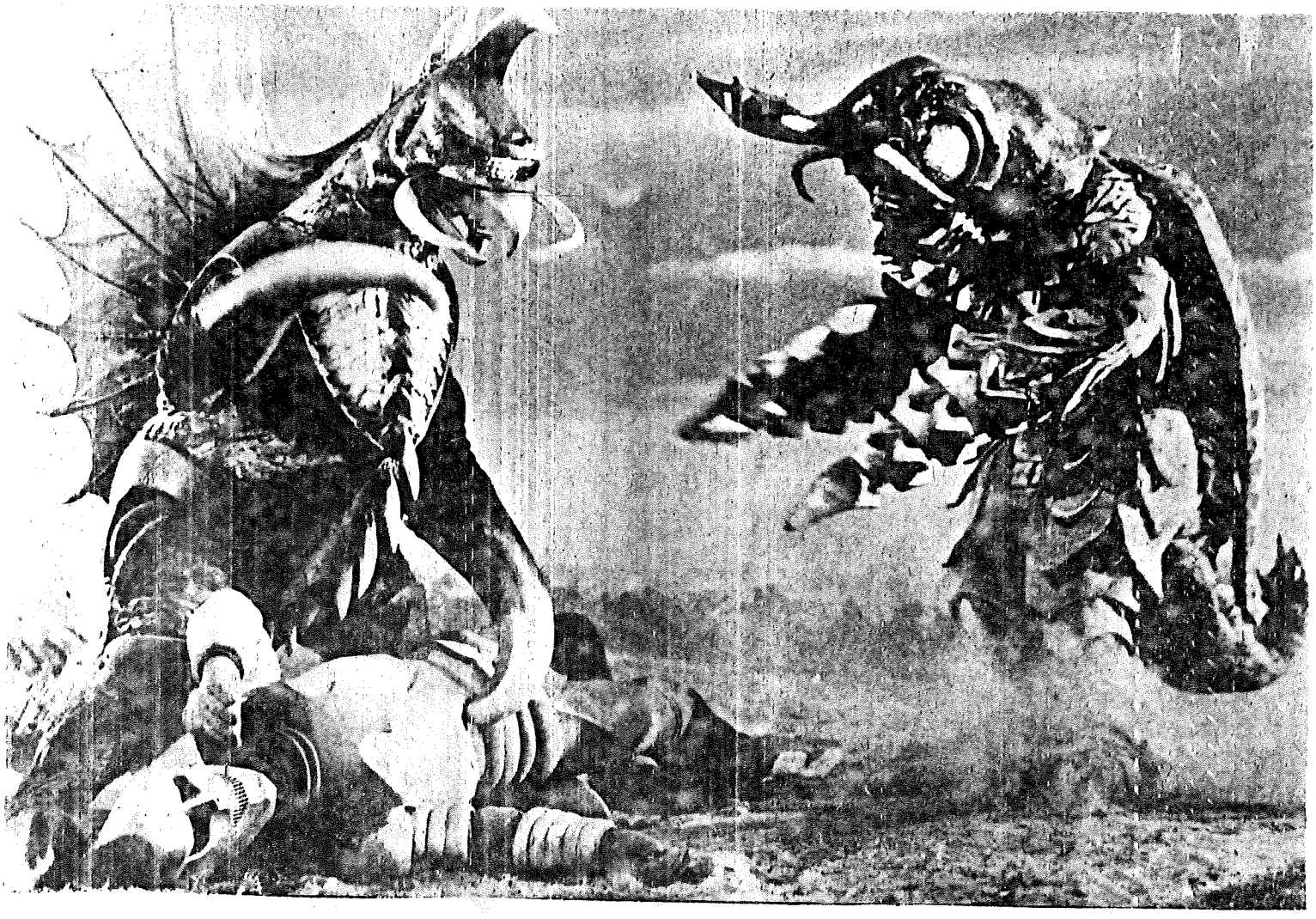
ally in this movie was Jet Jaguar, a giant robot who can shrink to man-size at will. Jet Jaguar was little above Minya in quality. Where was all of Godzilla's worthwhile teamates?

In GODZILLA VS. THE COSMIC MONSTER (1977), a better ally was introduced, King Seesaw. Despite the monster's semi-ridiculous name, the lion-like creature was a good ally for Godzilla. Not quite up to Rodan, but far above Minya or Jet Jaguar.

The following year, the sequel, TERROR OF MECHAGODZILLA was released (see page 3 for part 1 of a filmbook on this spectacular film). Although this movie was very good, it didn't feature an ally for Godzilla. So far, this is the last Godzilla film released in the U.S., but don't despair- GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND is soon to be released. It features Angilas. And, undoubtably, future Godzilla films will feature new and different allies for the Big G. We can only wait... and hope.

(See page 16 for a preview of GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND).

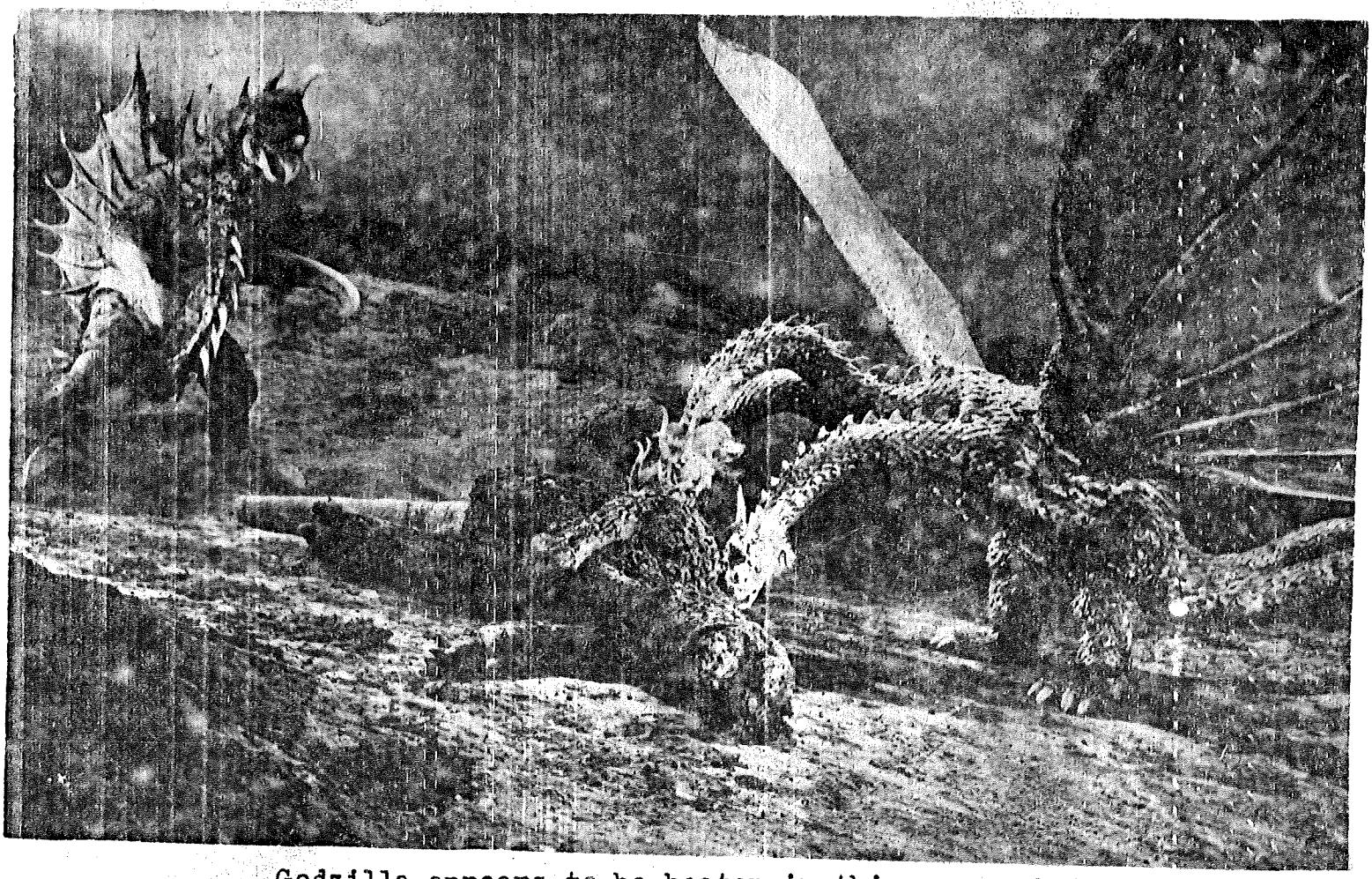
Gigan and Megalon stand over a vanquished Jet Jaguar in GODZILLA VS. MEGALON (1976).



Mike Martin '78

SPACE MONSTERS FROM BEYOND THE STARS... AT WAR WITH...

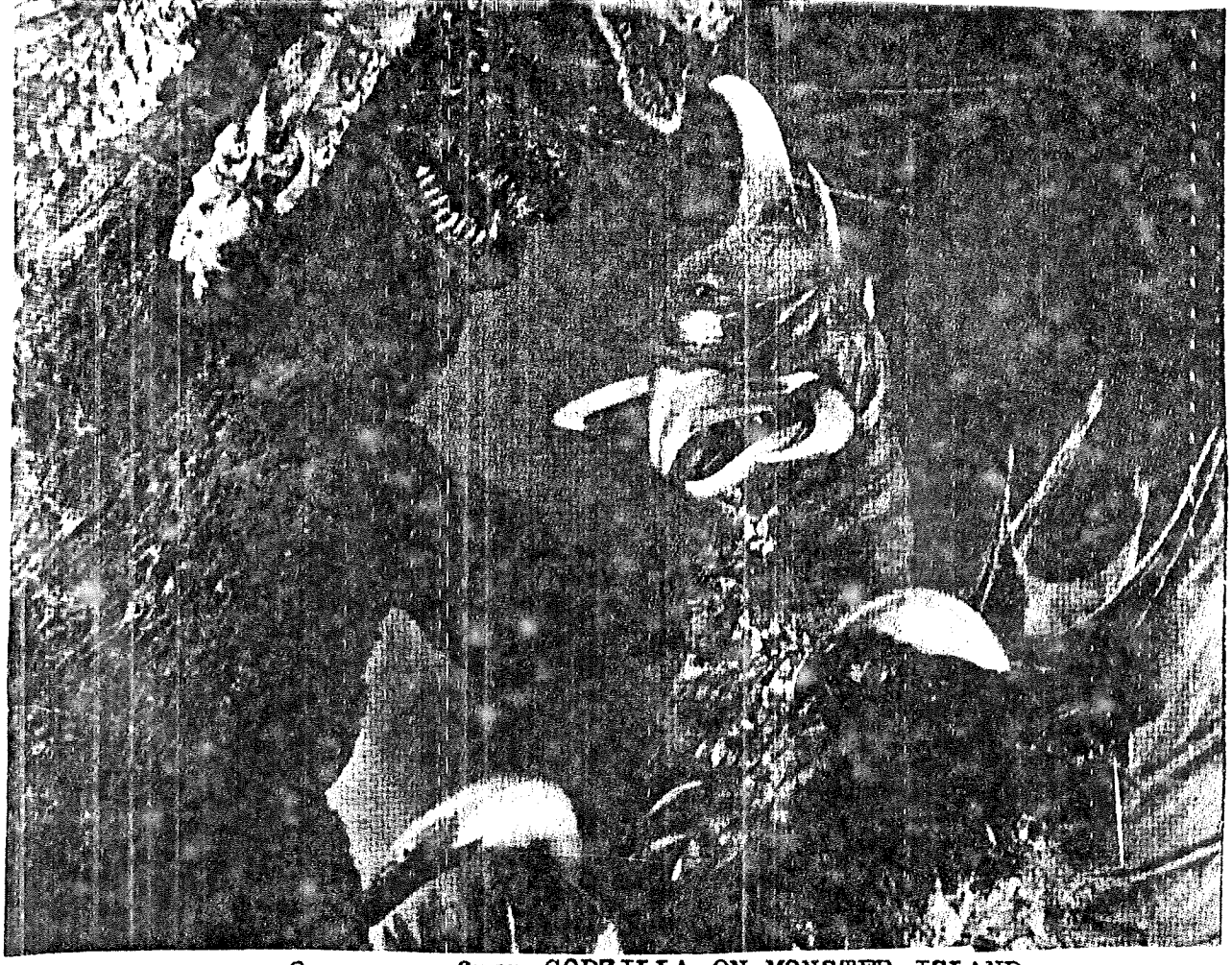
GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND



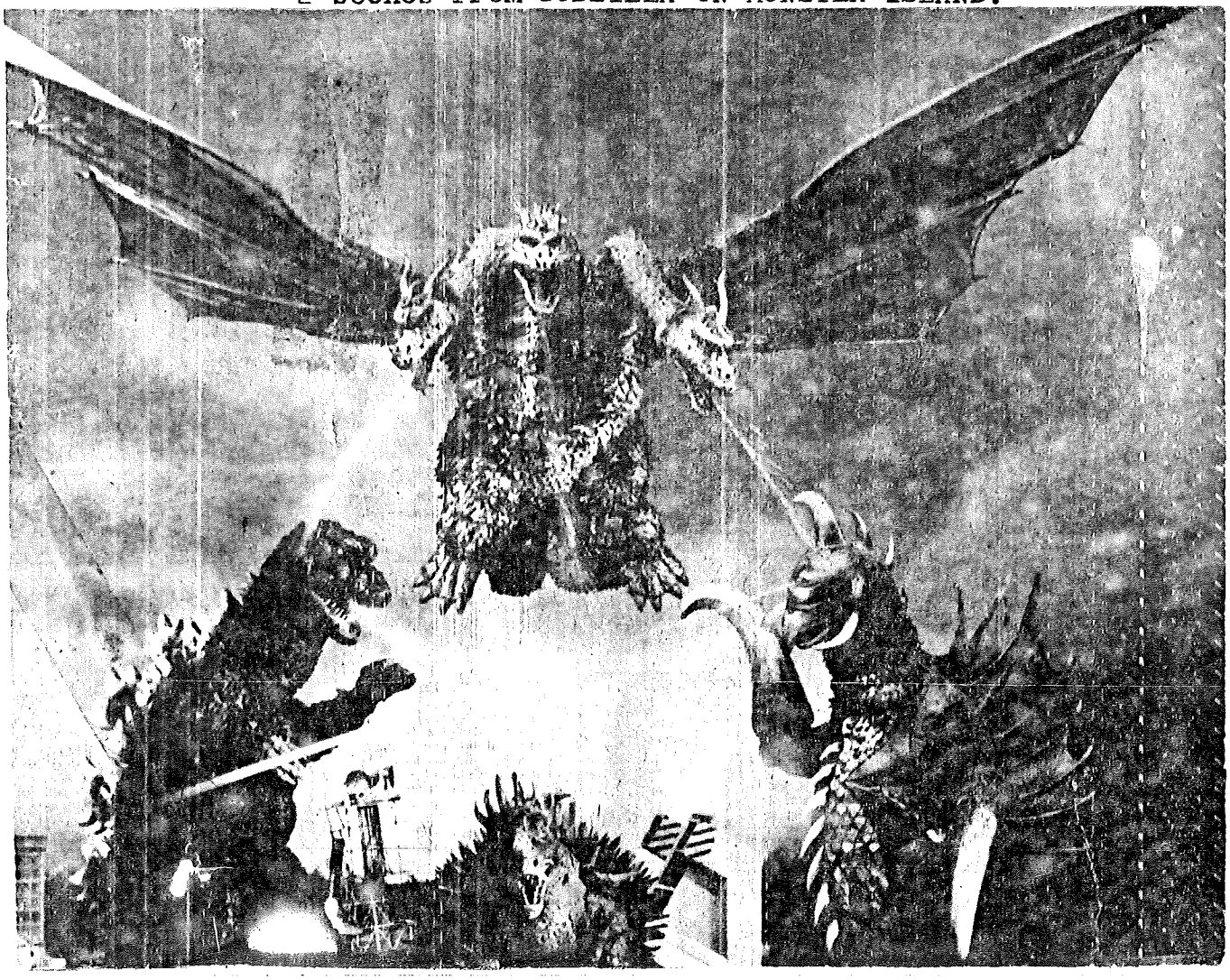
Godzilla appears to be beaten in this scene, but we all know he'll get up again to vanquish his foes!

GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND, released in Japan in 1972 under the title GODZILLA VS. GIGAN, is scheduled for release sometime this year, most likely in the summer. This movie was Godzilla's 12th film, and stars the Big G, Angurus (also called Angilas, Anulis and Anzilla by some), the three-headed horror, Ghidrah, and Gigan, a bird-like creature from space. Gigan (pronounced Guy-Gan) first appeared in this film, but we've seen him before in a later film, GODZILLA VS. MEGALON, which was released here before MONSTER ISLAND. Here is a summary of GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND:

A cartoonist named Kotaka finds out that aliens from another world are planning to take over the earth after killing Godzilla. Kotaka,



2 scenes from GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND.



Two of the monster stars of GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND- Above, Kevin Gray's conception of the evil Gigan- below, Godzilla, holding a tree for a club, moves in to strike.

and two friends of his, use a special long-range tape recording device to summon Godzilla and his mighty ally, Angurus, who then leave Monster Island and head for Japan. Not too long after this, two aliens posing as a man and a boy, send for Ghidrah and Gigan. These two evil monsters travel through space toward Earth and land in Japan, demolishing everything in their path. No military weapons can stop them. But then, Godzilla and Angurus approach the two space monsters and a colossal battle occurs. The aliens get ready to blast Godzilla and his scaley friend with a laser weapon until Kotaka blows up the whole operation. Godzilla and Angurus then wipe out their foes from space. When the battle is over, Godzilla and Angurus go back to Monster Island, their home, until their next monster battle.

GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND looks and sounds like a pretty good film to me, and I look forward to the day it is released in the United States. So hang on to your seats when GODZILLA ON MONSTER ISLAND reaches theaters near you in the near future!

* * * * *

NEXT ISSUE PREVIEW

As of right now, I'm not sure exactly of WHAT will be in our next issue, or if there will even BE a next issue. It all depends on how many advance orders I get. So far, these are some of the features I have planned for GFJ #2- part 2 of our TERROR OF MECHAGODZILLA filmbook, Ghidrah & Co.- the enemies of Godzilla, the Mothra Movies, the Godzilla Comic, the Shogan Warriors comic, and reviews of MONSTER ZERO, GODZILLA VS. THE SMOG MONSTER and others, as well as 8mm movie reviews of DESTROY ALL MONSTERS, MONSTER FROM A PRE-HISTORIC PLANET and FRANKENSTIEN CONQUERS THE WORLD. Also included will be ads and a letters page. Cost will be $1.00, and be gaurenteed that it won't take a year for GFJ #2 or your dollar to find its way back to you. Order from:

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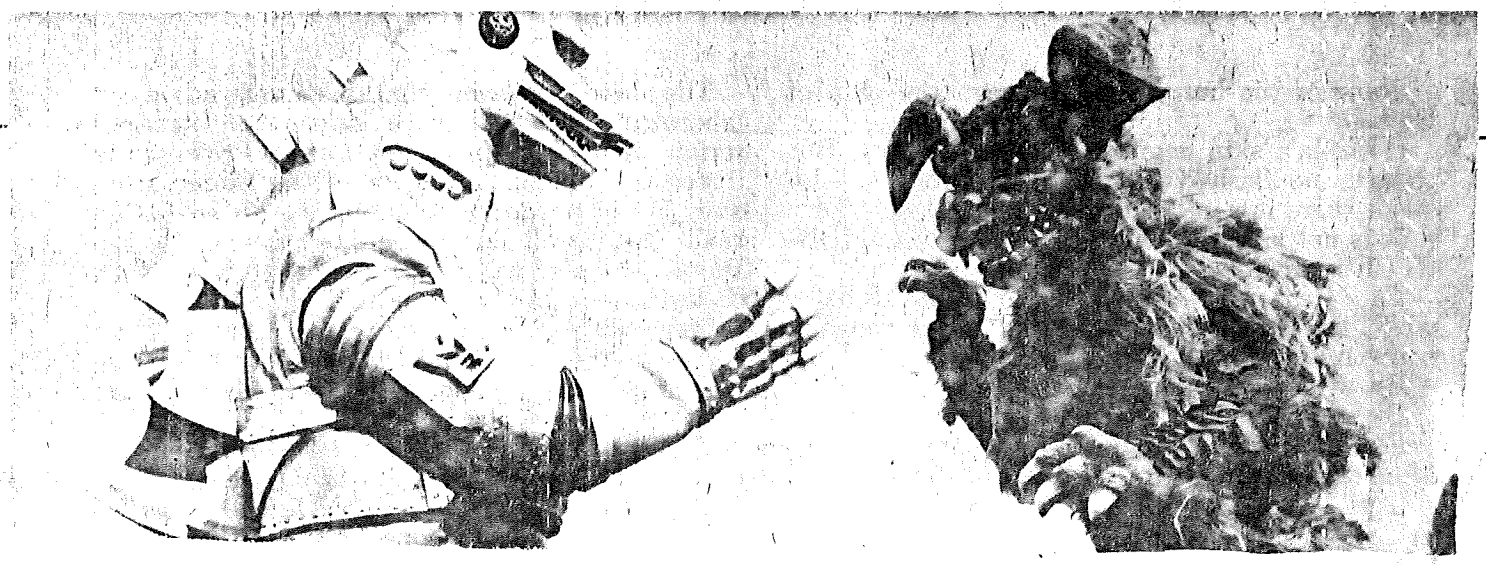
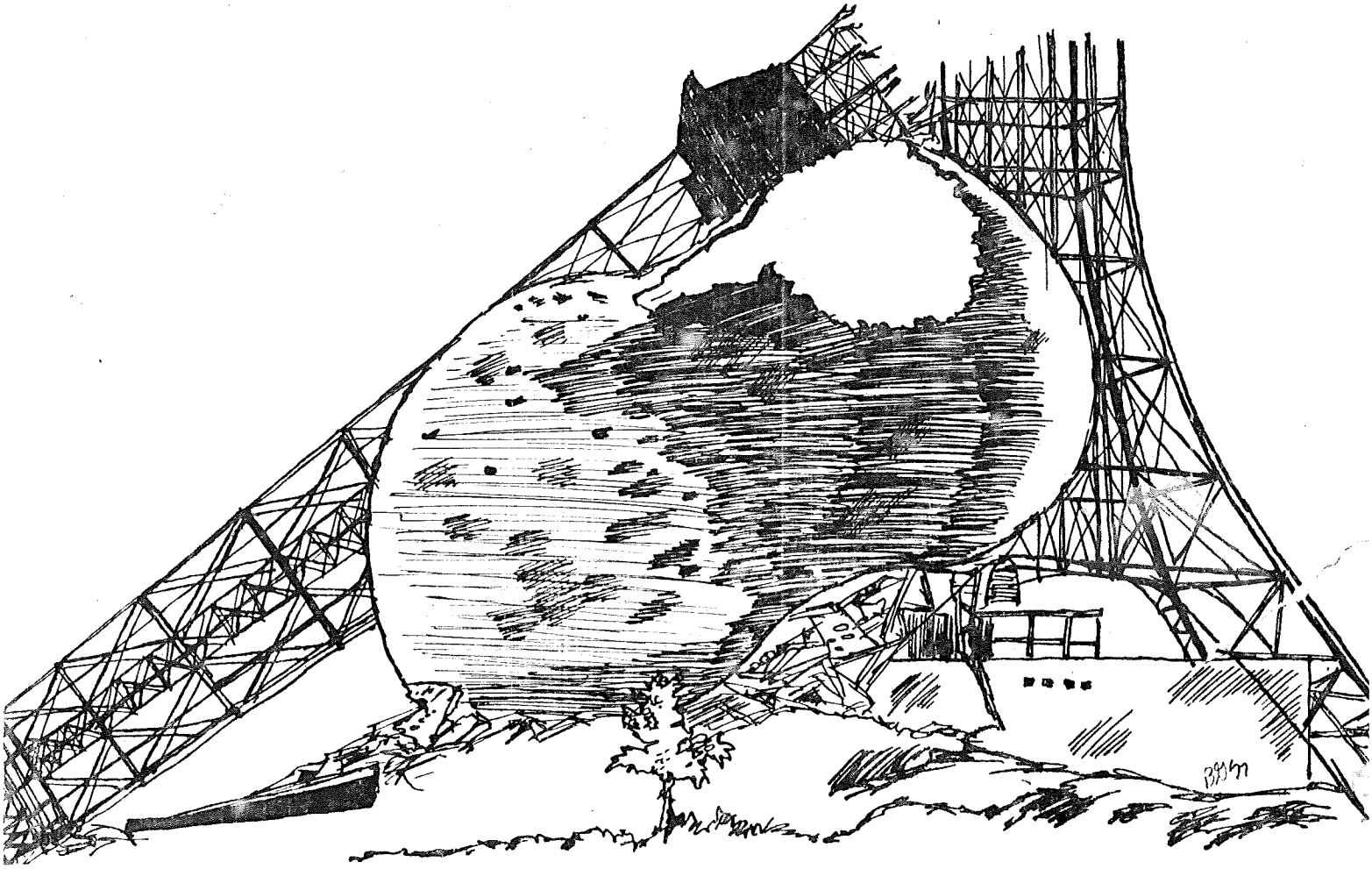
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